

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /060 W

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R 061450Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1614

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS

1. PORTUGUESE CHARGE CRESPO TOLD DCM THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS HAVE BEEN PRESSING FOR VISIT BY FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK TO LISBON, WHICH WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN JANUARY. CZECHOSLOVAKS WOULD ALSO LIKE PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT TO VISIT PRAGUE DURING 1977, BUT CRESPO SAYS PRESIDENT EANES HAS NO INTENTION OF VISITING CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. CRESPO SAID, IN ADDITION, THAT PORTUGAL WILL HAVE TO CLOSE SOME OF ITS EAST EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS--NOT INCLUDING MOSCOW AND BELGRADE-- TO MEET DEMANDS OF PRIME MINISTER SOARE'S NEW AUSTERITY PROGRAM. CRESPO HOPES, BUT IS NOT SANGUINE, THAT HIS OWN EMBASSY IN PRAGUE MAY REMAIN OPEN AND BE GIVEN RESPONSIBILITIES FOR AN ADJACENT COUNTRY AS WELL.

3. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS WISH TO MAINTAIN HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS WITH GOP MAINLY TO ADVANCE THE

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POST-1968 CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERSHIP'S CONTINUING QUEST FOR LEGITIMACY.

AT THE SAME TIME, CZECHOSLOVAKS SEEM READY TO TAKE REASONABLY
PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO SOARES GOVERNMENT. THEY HAVE DONE
THEIR BIT FOR CUNHAL BY SENDING BILAK TO RECENT PCP CONGRESS
IN LISBON, BUT NOW THEY WILL DO THEIR BEST TO GET ALONG WITH
SOARES AS FAR AS STATE RELATONS ARE CONCERNED.
BYRNE

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